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Message Text

SECRET

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17
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07

ERDA-05 NRC-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /084 W
---------- 048617
P R 310459Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1933
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CNO

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 3277

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NZ
SUBJ: REQUEST BY PRIME MINISTER FOR ANOTHER U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED
WARSHIP VISIT: RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS BE DONE

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 3219, (B) WELLINGTON 3254

1. DURING LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ABOARD
USS TRUXTON AUGUST 31, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME THAT HE
IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE ANOTHER AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP
VISIT NEW ZEALAND AT AN EARLY DATE. IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S
VIEW SUCH A VISIT WOULD HELP TO DEFUSE THE NPW ISSUE IN NEW
ZEALAND AND CONDITION THE PEOPLE TO VIEWING THE VISIT OF A
NPW AS LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM A CALL BY A CONVENTIONALLY
POWERED WARSHIP. MULDOON SAID A VISIT WITHIN A MONTH
TO SIX WEEKS WOULD BE IDEAL AS BY THAT TIME HIS GOVERNMENT
WOULD HAVE ENACTED A LAW IMPOSING HEAVY PENALTIES AGAINST
SUCH A STRIKE AS THAT BY THE WELLINGTON WATERSIDERS WHICH
HAS CUT NORMAL ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC BETWEEN NORTH
ISLAND AND SOUTH ISLAND. ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICIT IN THE
KIND OF NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO
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HAVE PAY THE SECOND VISIT, MULDOON GAVE THE IMPRESSION

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THAT HE WANTED A SURFACE VESSEL AND NOT A SUBMARINE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MORE THAN ONE AMERICAN NPW WILL APRTICIPATE IN ANZUS EXERCIZE "KANGAROO II" IN OCTOBER, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO ACCEDE TO PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST WITHOUT VISITING SHIP HAVING TO GO OUT OF ITS WAY. SHIP COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREFERABLE AS THIS WOULD AVOID GETTING INTO THE VEXING MEAT LOCKER ISSUE.

3. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT AND DOD APPROVE THE VISIT OF A SECOND AMERICAN NPW TO NEW ZEALAND IN OCTOBER AND THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST FORMALLY NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF A VISIT TO A PORT TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE GNZ.
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